



GRANT RECIPIENT
TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
PARKS AND REC.

YEAR
2005

COUNTY
LAKE

CATEGORY
LOW COST CONSTRUCTION

GRANT AWARD
\$100,000

LOCAL SHARE
\$150,700



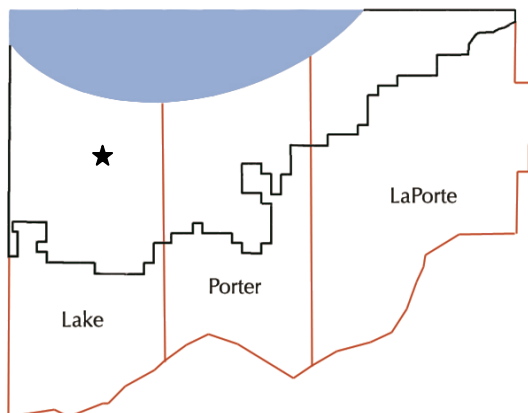
FOR MORE INFORMATION
Lake Michigan Coastal Program
1600 N 25 E
Chesterton, IN 46304
(219) 983-9912
www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich



Pruzin Park Habitat Restoration and Education

The overall goal of the project was to redevelop the existing underutilized park into an active facility with a variety of programs focused on environmental and ecological restoration and education. The project also created a high quality prairie and wetland complex by reducing invasive species, stabilizing the drainage ditches which empty into the lake with suitable native plant species, and clearing and seeding more than ten acres with native wetlands and prairie plants. The Town also developed support facilities and a trail to access an existing lake/wetland area and to teach students about the natural environment, wetland ecology, stormwater management and other related subjects. According to the 2005 Parks Master plan, Pruzin Park was a high priority facility and will eventually be developed for a variety of recreational activities for the residents which are complementary to the environmental restoration activities completed under this project.

Pruzin Park is a 22 acre public park located on the northern part of Merrillville in one of the most densely populated neighborhoods of the town. The park is adjacent to Merrillville Intermediate School. The park has a large lake/wetland in its center. The park is also a starting point for one of the tributaries of the Turkey Creek. The stormwater and erosion has, over the years, negatively impacted the site. The lake was very much overgrown with invasive wetland species and not accessible. This project completed a study of the area, produced a conceptual drawing, and produced engineering designs for several improvements and restorations. These efforts improved the park, restored existing wetlands, managed neighborhood stormwater, and created a setting for environmental education for students and the public. The town in collaboration with the Merrillville school system and particularly those students attending the Merrillville Intermediate School initiated environmental education for students on the site.



RESULT: Restoration of Pruzin Park.